

The Laxmi Chhaya DVD

Introduction



As with many other of the actors and actresses in classic Indian films, not much (meaning practically nothing) of Laxmi Chhaya's personal life and her career in films is known. We know that she passed away way too early, dying of cancer about 6 years ago. Beyond that, nothing. If anyone can fill in details - family members, friends, friends of friends - perhaps you'd be so kind as to comment in memsaab's blog (link at bottom), maybe in her "My 10 Favorite Laxmi Chhaya Songs" post. There are many people around the world who love her, her dancing, and her acting in the movies available, and you'd be sure to receive a warm reception.

Apparently she began her film career in 1963. I say 'apparently' because the information available is so sketchy that there's just no way to be sure it's accurate. I think her first film was 1963's Bluff Master starring Shammi Kapoor and Saira Banu (memsaab gets the credit for spotting her before the qawaali begins). I think this may have been her first film because she isn't listed in the film's credits, where for the other 2 films IMDB says she appeared in that year, she is listed in the credits. Here she is,

standing beside Saira Banu:



Hers was a speaking role with several lines of dialog, which makes her not appearing in the film's credits all the more peculiar. In the other 2 films she was in that year she (probably) performed her first dances. Links to those 2 dances will appear in the Links section at the bottom this document. Based on the filmography at IMDB she appeared in no films in 1964 but, as we all know, IMDB isn't always to be trusted in these matters. We next pick her up in 1965 when her career began to boom. She continued to flourish until about 1972 when she began to slow down. The last video included in this collection is from 1976, and IMDB lists her last film as being in 1986, but I don't think she'd still have been dancing by then.

The DVD



Choosing the videos for this compilation was difficult, very difficult. I was fortunate to have Raja advising me, because my natural inclination would be to just use all the uptempo dance numbers. But, as he's of Indian ancestry with a vast knowledge of classic Indian films, he knows which are the better known songs, and which might appeal more to those of Indian ancestry, which I am not. And face it, even though some of the bloggers and classic Indian movie fans aren't of Indian ancestry, the vast majority of those that might want this DVD surely are. While I do think that many of Laxmi's best dance numbers are the uptempo ones, frequently so fast that she's on the verge of losing it entirely, she performed in a wide variety of dances, and we've tried to include a good sampling of everything she did. All of memsaab's top ten favorites made the list, but there are 23 songs in total, so many more are also included. Some are from VCDs, so the quality isn't the best, and many are from less than stellar DVDs, but we do the best we can with what we're given.

Subtitles



As is usual with these compilation DVDs, the subtitles play by default. If you don't want or need them, use your player's remote control to turn them off.

VCDs don't come with subtitles. Many DVDs don't subtitle the songs while others subtitle them only crudely. It's been my

great fortune to have help in these matters provided by Ava and Raja. Perhaps 75% of the subtitling and improvement of existing subs was done by Raja, with Ava doing most of the rest of the work. For those of us that don't speak Hindi, it's a huge improvement over the usual substandard job done by the Indian DVD production companies and for those of us that need subtitles, we are very grateful for their efforts. As I make my way through the videos in this document I'll mention who did what for each video. In some cases, though, my notes may be incomplete, and if I don't give credit where credit is due I beg forgiveness of the one I've slighted.

The Videos



There are 23 songs in the collection. The first five are my favorites, but I don't guess they'll be everyone else's favorites, and there are gems scattered throughout. All are very good, I think, and together are representative of the wide range of her work.

1. Jaan Pehchaan Ho
Performer: Laxmi Chhaya
Singer: Mohammad Rafi
Music: Shankar, Jaikishen
Lyrics: Hasrat Jaipuri
Film: Gumnaam, 1965

Starring: Manoj Kumar, Nanda, Pran, Helen, Mehmood, Dumal, Madan Puri



It's not much of a movie, in my opinion, but this is one of the all-time great music videos, Indian or otherwise. It's the Indian music video best known in the US because it was featured in the American film *Ghostworld* in 2001. How do I love this video? Let me count the ways. Mohammad Rafi does a masterful job with the vocals. The lounge lizard 'singing' the song is played by genius choreographer Herman Benjamin who choreographed this dance as well as the dances throughout the film (thanks again, memsaab). The music is great rock and roll with a vaguely surf-music feel to it, made epic by the addition of the Spanish horns. And the dancing by Laxmi with moves choreographed by Herman Benjamin is beyond great. This head-shaking, straight-arm-limp-wrist-hand-shaking dance is unlike anything ever seen before (although a few movies before it had some moves that were clearly steps towards this fully realized dance), and it influenced Indian film dancing for several years afterwards. Laxmi, Helen, Asha Parekh, Mumtaz, and others were seen performing similar moves in their dances in later films. I have no idea how popular this dance was at the time, but for me it's my favorite Laxmi Chhaya dance and one of my top two or three all-time favorite Indian film dances.

Subs edited and improved by Ava.

2. Do Pal Jo Teri

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Bela Bose, Rajesh Khanna

Singers: Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle

Music: R.D. Burman

Lyrics: Majrooh Sultanpuri

Film: Baharon Ke Sapne, 1967

**Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Asha Parekh, Prem Nath,
Rajendra Nath, Madan Puri, Nana Paliksar, Anwar
Hussain, Padma Khanna**



Here we have two masters at work. This is one of the best synchronized dance performances of her career. One wonders how well these two great dancers and strong personalities got along with each other. Each loves the camera and loves scene stealing and mugging. Watching them work together is a sheer delight. And the costumes! The big beehive hairdos with the ponytails sticking out and the feathers in the hair. The plastic (?) decorations over each ear. The tight sequined collars made to look like ribbons tied around the neck. Can anyone but the Indians pull off things so outlandish but at the same time so appealing?

3. Awaara Ae Mere Dil

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Lata Mangeshkar

Music: Shankar, Jaikishen

Lyrics: Shailendra

Film: Raat Aur Din, 1967

Starring: Nargis, Pradeep Kumar, Feroz Khan, Anwar Hussain, K.N. Singh, Laxmi Chhaya



I've seen 3 different versions of this great song from three different DVDs. This one is the one the least dark and murky. It came from a Lata Compilation album. While it has a few problems of its own (including cutting a few seconds off both the beginning and end), I think it's about the best video version of the song I've seen. The movie is worth seeing, and there's a different slower version of the same song elsewhere in the movie, one performed by Nargis. At least part of the credit for this one goes to Lata Mangeshkar for her beautiful singing here, but Laxmi also does justice to this uptempo version of the song with her performance.

4. Mujhko Pyaar Ho Gaya

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, I.S. Johar

Singers: Usha Khanna, Mohammad Rafi

Music: Usha Khanna

Lyrics: Anand Bakshi

Film: Haye Mera Dil, 1968

Starring: Kishore Kumar, Kumkum, I.S. Johar, Raj Mehra, Laxmi Chhaya, Madan Puri, Prem Chopra



Translation by Ava with a couple of lines by Raja. There was a big glitch in the DVD where the screen went white for a couple of seconds after I.S. Johar first shows up in his wheelchair. I removed that and replaced it with slowly morphing pictures, but there's no real way to fix that sort of thing. One of my favorite Laxmi performances. She's just so cute. Her naturally comedic dance style is augmented here by the comedy of I.S. Johar, one of my favorite Indian comedians.

5. Woh Pyaara Pyaara Chanda

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Johnny Walker

Singer: Mahendra Kapoor

Music: Chitalkar Ramchandra

Lyrics: Shakeel Badayuni

Film: Wahan Ke Log, 1967

Starring: Pradeep Kumar, Tanuja, Johnny Walker, Neelofar, NA Ansari, Bela Bose

From a VCD, so the picture quality isn't the best. The audio is also substandard. The blur in the upper left is the remains of the much despised Nupur logo.

Even with all that though, this is a very fine music video with a very catchy tune, lots of unique Laxmi Chhaya dancing, a lively

Johnny Walker performance (with one of the few songs ever performed by him not voiced by Mohammad Rafi), a sort of dance-off between the Earth girls and the Moon maidens, and two trombone solos. How often do you get to hear a trombone solo in an Indian movie? If there's anything wrong with it, there could stand to be more of Laxmi twisting the night away. She's about the best twister I've ever seen. Where it's usually an immobile dance with people rooted firmly to the ground and moving their arms sedately, she turns it into a much livelier dance. Watch what happens when Johnny sings the part about Earth people twisting night and day. She does a brief double-time twist, followed by twisting all over the place.



Who can listen to this thing a couple of times without then trying to sing along?

Chibapchi chibaba
Chibapchi chibaba
Chibapchi ba
Chibapchi ba
Chibapchi chibapchi bachibachiba

Or something like that.

Subs by Ava.

6. Aajkal Ke Sabhi Naujawaan

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Jeevan Kala

Singers: Lata Mangeshkar, Usha Mangeshkar

Music: Usha Khanna

Lyrics: Qamar Jalalabadi

Film: Johar In Bombay, 1967

Starring: I.S. Johar, Rajendra Nath, Sonia Sahni, Polson, Jeevan Kala, Madan Puri, Randhir, K.N. Singh



A fine duo dance with Jeevan Kala, probably her most frequent dance partner.

From a VCD so the picture's a bit soft. Subs by Raja.

7. Ek Mutthi Mein Dil

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Madan Mohan

Lyrics: Verma Malik

Film: Sharafat Chod Di Maine, 1976

Starring: Feroz Khan, Hema Malini, Neetu Singh, Padma Khanna. Bindu, dheeraaj Kumar, Jagdeep

Late period Laxmi, as beautiful as ever, and it seems she never lost her youthful zest for dancing. This is the most recent video in this collection. Subs fine tuned by Raja.



8. Nazar Meri Badhi

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Hansraj Behl

Lyrics: Qamar Jalalabadi

Film: Rustom-E-Hind, 1965

Starring: Mumtaz, Dara Singh, Bihari, Laxmi Chhaya, Helen, Rhandir, Mohan Chote, Tun Tun, Madhumati



I don't know how Laxmi's costume and her dancing fit into a historical film, but maybe she just transcends all space and time and belongs everywhere. This is one of the good ones, I think. From a crummy T-Series DVD with the logo removed. Translation by Raja.

9. Piya Ki Gali

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Yogeeta Bali

Singers: Asha Bhosle, Parveen Sultana

Music: Madan Mohan

Lyrics: Kaifi Azmi

Film: Parwana, 1971

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Navin Nischol, Yogeeta Bali, Shatrughan Sinha, Om Prakash, Helen, Laxmi Chhaya, Lalita Pawar



One of her best, I think. Although Yogeeta Bali couldn't act a lick in this film (it was her first, so maybe she got better later on), and although she doesn't have Laxmi Chhaya's screen presence or charisma, she can really dance and is a worthy partner for Laxmi. This is one of the ones where the pace is almost brutal sometimes, the kind where Laxmi shines.

The subs presented a problem because it was difficult to pick out the exact words sometimes, so the result is a bit of a collaboration between Ava and Raja, mostly Ava.

10. Main Ek Haseena

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Laxmikant, Pyarelal

Lyrics: Anand Bakshi

Film: Aya Sawan Jhoom Ke, 1969

Starring: Asha Parekh, Dharmendra, Ravindra Kapoor, Nasir Hussain, Rajendra Nath, Nirupa Roy, Sunder, Laxmi Chhaya



Another solo performance by Laxmi, and she seems to have no trouble at all carrying the load by herself. This is one of her best known performances. The video quality is good and the subs were fine-tuned by Raja.

11. Bahroopiye Log Saare

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Sonik Omi

Lyrics: Hasrat Jaipuri

Film: Ek Khiladi Bawan Pattey, 1972

Starring: Dev Kumar, Naqi Jahan, Laxmi Chhaya, Vinod Khanna, Mohan Chattey, Junior Mehmood



In this film she's the second female lead and has 3 full songs and dances. This one is perhaps the best known so it gets included. From a VCD so the picture leaves something to be desired. Subs by Raja.

12. Raja Tohey Nainon

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Kalyanji, Anandji

Lyrics: Rajendar Krishan

Film: Ek Shriman Ek Shrimati, 1969

Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Babita Kapoor, Rajendra Nath, Prem Chopra, Kamini Kaushal, Helen, Laxmi Chhaya



From a blurry Shemaroo DVD that goes purplish on the left side, with the logo removed.

This film was choreographed by the renowned Herman Benjamin. Here, although she's playing a tribal we have more of the unique and eccentric Laxmi Chhaya dancing style - very rhythmic in an almost herky-jerky manner - but in the end very appealing. There's also lots of her patented mugging for the camera. There's no one else quite like her.

Subs edited and improved by Raja.

13. Maar Diya Jaaye

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Dharmendra, Asha Parekh, Vinod Khanna

Singer: Lata Mangeshkar

Music: Laxmikant, Pyarelal

Lyrics: Anand Bakshi

Film: Mera Gaon Mera Desh, 1971

Starring: Asha Parekh, Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Laxmi Chhaya, Jayant, Asit Sen



Laxmi has a big role in this film, as well as 3 full-blown songs and dances. For Laxmi Chhaya fans, it's probably THE movie of hers to see. I'm more partial to one of the other dances, but this is the most famous one, I think, and one of the most famous of her entire career. And it has decent video quality. Another song from this film is included later on.

Subs edited and improved by Raja.

14. Kya Ho Hai Kya Ho

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Jeevan Kala

Singers: Suman Kalyanpur, Kamal Barot

Music: Sardar Malik

Lyrics: Anjaan

Film: Panch Ratan, 1965

Starring: Randhawa, Parveen Choudhary, Shyam Kumar, Kamram, Habib



Another one with Jeevan Kala. I like the tune and arrangement for this one, the contrast in the voices of our two singers, and I especially like the dancing of our two women. There are lots of quick spins of different kinds in this one and see if you don't agree with me that Laxmi probably did the best spins of anyone, very fast when needed, always smooth, and clean.

From a Shemaroo DVD with the logo removed. Subs edited and improved by Raja.

15. Gulaabi Raat Gulaabi

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya

Singers: Asha Bhosle

Music: Kalyanji, Anandji

Lyrics: Indeevar

Film: Upkar, 1967

Starring: Asha Parekh, Manoj Kumar, Prem Chopra, Kanhaiyalal, David Abraham, Manmohan Krishna, Pran

Who better to portray decadence and degeneracy than Laxmi Chhaya? This is another of her famous ones. The choreography for this film was by Surya Kumar and Herman Benjamin, but Herman's fingerprints are all over this dance video.

Thanks to Mr. Naidu for permission to use his translation of this song.



16. Dheere Dheere Bol

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singers: Asha Bhosle, Mahendra Kapoor

Music: Naushad Ali

Lyrics: Shakeel Badayuni

Film: Ram Aur Shyam, 1967

**Starring: Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaz, Pran,
Laxmi Chhaya, Leela Mishra, Nirupa Roy**



This is a nice stage show put on by the villagers, with a lot of not-so-concealed jabs at rich man Pran. You can see him looking a bit uncomfortable at times.

17. Cobra And Peacock Fight

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Madhumati

Singer: None

Music: Anandji, Kalyanji

Film: Suhaag Raat, 1968

Starring: Jeetendra, Rajshree, Sulochana, Om Prakash, Shabnam, Dumal, Mehmood



Unfortunately I couldn't find a good pic of the 2 dancers together. Immediately before this one, there had been a dance-off mujra between Laxmi and Madhumati that was declared a draw. So they had another one to break the tie. Who won? Laxmi did. Why? Because the peacock always wins against the cobra, they said. I don't make 'em up; I only report 'em.

I don't know that I've ever seen Madhumati as animated as in this dance, choreographed by Gopi Krishna. You can see that the two dancers are having a good time as they're often smiling when they're not pretending to be fierce, especially while rolling around on the floor. The film, in addition to having the two Laxmi/Madhumati dances, also has a very good Rajshree dance. Unfortunately, the T-Series DVD leaves a lot to be desired.

18. Hai Mar Gayi O Mar Gayi

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Jeetendra

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Kalyanji Virji Shah, Anandji Virji Shah
Lyrics: Anand Bakshi
Film: Mere Humsafar, 1970
Starring: Sharmila Tagore, Jeetendra, Balraj Sahni,
Laxmi Chhaya, Suresh, Jagdeep, Shammi



A real nice uptempo street dance with a large cast, the show being enjoyed enjoyed by Jeetendra in the audience.

Subs edited and improved by Raja.

19. Hai Sharmaon

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Lata Mangeshkar

Music: Laxmikant, Pyarelal

Lyrics: Anand Bakshi

Film: Mera Gaon Mera Desh, 1971

Starring: Asha Parekh, Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna,
Laxmi Chhaya, Jayant, Asit Sen

I actually like this song and dance quite a bit better than the more famous Maar Diya Jaaye from the same film. There's all kinds of secret information being passed in the lyrics of the song and in gestures and looks. And it's very rhythmic. Lots of good camera work as well.



20. Main Sharab Behti Hoon

Performers: Laxmi Chhaya, Sudhir

Singer: Asha Bhosle

Music: Laxmikant, Pyarelal

Lyrics: Anand Bakshi

Film: Raaste Ka Patthar, 1972

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Shatrughan Sinha, Laxmi Chhaya, Prem Chopra, Neeta Khayani, Sudhir



This one's a bit of a change of pace for Laxmi. It's kind of a sad and desperate song, and Laxmi gets a chance to do more acting than is usual.

21. Us Pratham Parichay

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya and Raj Kumar (?)

Singer: Mukesh

Music: Dilip Roy

Lyrics: Bhagwat Mishra

Film: Veer Ghatotkuch, 1970

Starring: Mahipal, Raaj Kumar, Laxmi Chhaya, Sulochana Chatterjee, B.M Vyas, Mahesh Batt, Raj Kumar, Meenakshi, Padma Rani, Sujata, Jaysree T



If the last one was a little change of pace, then this one's a huge change of pace. Here she's at the receiving end of a regular love song, although not all that good of a song. And she does next to no dancing. Rather, the attraction here is a chance for her to pretend to be all shy and modest and for us to feast our eyes on the close-ups of one of our favorite on-screen personalities.

22. Phoolon Ki Mahak Lahron Ki Lachak

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Singer: Mahendra Kapoor

Music: Shankar, Jaikishen

Lyrics: Neeraj

Film: Kanyadaan, 1969

Starring: Asha Parekh, Shashi Kapoor, Bela Bose, Meena T., Om Prakash, Achala Sachdev, Tun Tun



Not much dancing in this one, but a nice chance to see some acting out of Laxmi. It's a play within the movie in which director Shashi Kapoor tries to teach women that they have choices if being abused by men, that they don't have to remain subservient. Asha Parekh's character, when asked by Shashi afterwards what she thought of the play, said that Laxmi shouldn't have gone off with the second man as she was still married, and didn't deserve to live after being tossed out of the house by her philandering husband. I guess she represented the traditional viewpoint.

Parts of the video are pretty ragged. I cleaned it up as best I could, but no one can do anything about the yellow blotches on Laxmi's beautiful white sari.

23. Stage Show

Performer: Laxmi Chhaya

Music: Laxmikant, Pyarelal

Film: Raaste Ka Patthar, 1972

Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Shatrughan Sinha, Laxmi Chhaya, Prem Chopra, Neeta Khayani, Sudhir

No song, no lyrics, no title. Pretty over the top, though. And it's a nice one with which to wind up the Laxmi Chhaya DVD, I think. Those of us that created this DVD hope you enjoy it.



Acknowledgements



First, I'd like to thank Mr. Naidu for coming up with the idea of these compilation DVDs, because they weren't being done, or not being done properly, by the Indian DVD production companies. Visit his blog ([link below](#)) for information where to get the DVDs he's released, some only through the Bollywood Torrents, others through the torrents and from MediaFire, like mine. I'd like to thank the other bloggers, including but not limited to Richard, dustedoff, and memsaab, who for the people out there like me, reading, learning, getting ideas for films to watch, and getting our cravings for things having to do with classic Indian films satisfied by their writings, are a very valuable resource. Anyone wishing to contact me about video encoding, PM 'manono' at one of the two sites listed below.

More Laxmi Videos



The 23 videos included here don't begin to touch the full number of songs and dances she performed during her career. Many more can be found on YouTube and elsewhere. All the ones on the DVD and more can be found on my channel at DailyMotion (link below). Search on the song name, the movie name, or just on 'Laxmi Chhaya'. Here are what I believe to be the first two dances she performed in 1963. The first one listed is in very bad quality at YouTube:

Laxmi's first dance (?)

Laxmi's second dance (?)

Some dances weren't included because of the very poor video quality they were in, others because I don't have the videos. Raja sent me links to 3 very good ones I hadn't seen before, a couple of which might have made their way into the compilation if I had the videos:

Sheeshe Ki Jawani from 1975's Badnam

Ek To Jawani Ne Mujhe Maar Diya
from 1972's Bindiya Aur Bندوق

Kela Aane Do Kele Aane from
1972's Bindiya Aur Bندوق

And, of course, there are many more worthy songs.

Links



Blog Links:

Ava's Film Blog
Richard's Dances On The Footpath
Mr. Naidu's DVD Restoration Project Blog
Madhu's (dustedoff's) Film Blog
Memsaab's Film Blog
Memsaab's 10 Favorite Laxmi Chhaya Songs Post

Video Encoding Sites:

for questions about video encoding PM 'manono'
Doom9
Videohelp.com

My channels at video sharing sites:

DailyMotion
Veoh

The DVDs:

The Minoo Mumtaz Compilation DVD
Albela, the 1951 film starring Geeta Bali and Bhagwan,
with subtitled songs for the first time ever,
(mostly) translated by Ava
Shikari
Wahan Ke Log
The Johnny Walker DVD
The Bela Bose DVD
The Laxmi Chhaya DVD